

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE



United States Attorney Donald W. Washington ***Western District of Louisiana***

United States Courthouse · 300 Fannin Street, Suite 3201 · Shreveport, Louisiana 71101-3068 ·
(318) 676-3600

United States Courthouse · 800 Lafayette Street, Suite 2200 · Lafayette, Louisiana 70501-7206

· (337) 262-6618

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Contact: Donald W. Washington (337-262-6618)

William J. Flanagan (318-676-3600)

ARMED CAREER CRIMINAL SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON ON FIREARMS CHARGES

Shreveport, Louisiana . . . United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced that LESLIE KEITH BLOXOM, 24, of Frierson, Louisiana, was sentenced today by United States District Judge S. Maurice Hicks, Jr. to 17.5 years in federal prison. His prison time is to be followed by five years of supervised release. BLOXOM pleaded guilty on April 14, 2008 to possession of a firearm and ammunition by a convicted felon.

BLOXOM's arrest stemmed from a traffic stop conducted by the Shreveport Police Department. When the traffic stop occurred, law enforcement officers discovered a loaded .38 caliber firearm under the driver's seat in the vehicle. The revolver was loaded with five live bullets and one empty/spent shell casing.

Possession of a firearm by a convicted felon carries a maximum sentence of 10 years, but because Bloxom was a three-time convicted felon, he was subject to

an enhancement under federal law as an armed career criminal. His prior qualifying felony convictions were for five separate counts of Simple Burglary in 2002.

U. S. Attorney Donald Washington stated:

Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

This case is being prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office as part of Project Safe Neighborhoods. Project Safe Neighborhoods is a nationwide program begun in 2001 and designed to reduce violence in our communities by aggressively using existing federal firearms laws. This case was investigated by the United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), Shreveport Field Office, Special Agent Michael Graham, in conjunction with the Shreveport Police Department and was prosecuted by Assistant U. S. Attorney Mary J. Mudrick.

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